

# Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Mrs. M. U.**—She's dating a young man who's undergoing psychoanalysis.

**Rhoda.**—He's a delightful companion, and he says I'm helping him get well.

**Mrs. M. U.**—My daughter is active in a religious organization and, in the course of a recent fund-raising campaign, she became very chummy with a young man on the same committee. He accompanied her home after meetings and now, I learn, he meets her at lunch. They both work in midtown.

He's an attractive fellow, affable and alert. And, with his father the head of a big trouser company, he should have a good financial future. But he confided to Rhoda that he feels very mixed up about things and is now going through psychoanalysis to settle a few matters in his mind.

Rhoda is a popular girl. I hate to see her turn down invitations from eligible boys, good catches who seem ready to be serious with her, and spend so much time with Clyde. I think she's looking for trouble and heartache.

**Rhoda U.**—Clyde is a fascinating, though complex, person and I enjoy being in his company. He's 28, a college graduate, and has been all over the world, both as a Navy man and on his own. Now he's studying law, although he helps out part-time in his father's sales office.

He has explained his present position to me and I understand and accept it. While I don't expect my parents to jump for joy over my friendship with Clyde, I certainly count on them to behave intelligently and humanely. Clyde deserves every credit for tackling his problems in this thorough, orderly way.

His parents were divorced when he was 14, and he never had any real home life or guidance. Even today, he does not know what line of work to follow, what he's best suited for. Through analysis he hopes, for example, to learn whether to practice law or go into his father's business.

The Council: Mrs. U. reveals the ignorance and unfeeling attitudes that still prevail in this country on the subject of mental and emotional illness. The fact is that, in the opinion of researchers, one out of every two persons has a treated, untreated, or being-treated condition in this area! "And," adds Dr. William C. Menninger, the Kansas psychiatrist, "if you reckon the persons whose efficient functioning is disrupted frequently by a mental or emotional disturbance, the toll is one in one!"

Clyde is simply seeking scientific amelioration for a disability that many of us muddle through ourselves, with more or less success. During treatment he is groping for the answers to such vital questions as: "What sort of person am I really? What do I want out of life? What am I best fitted to contribute? and then, what qualities should I seek in a mate to complement by own?" He should emerge with self-knowledge and self-assurance.

Those are valuable assets for friendship. Rhoda probably finds it refreshing to talk to a man who doesn't have all the answers and who admits he's looking for a few solid ones, with professional help. She may be tired listening to people who rail at fate, the cards, and the Republicans, with nary an inward glance.

Mrs. U. can relax romance, for the present. Usually the patient is cautioned against entering into lifelong irreversible commitments while under treatment. But if Rhoda's relationship with Clyde should move on to something deeper, if he seeks to marry her some day, she'll know that all his cards have been laid on the table. The angers, the fears, the resentments have been aired. They will not mysteriously color and haunt the new relationship of his 30s, 40s and 50s.

For the moment, Clyde finds comfort and reassurance from being with Rhoda. It's good that she, rather than her parents, personify the "public" to him.

### ANNA WONG DIES

Santa Monica, Calif. — (AP) — Anna May Wong, a hometown girl of Chinese descent who reached movie stardom as a teen-ager opposite Douglas Fairbanks Sr., died Friday night of a heart attack while preparing for a new role.

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